



Bosnia UPDATE

A Summary of Developments Affecting the Balkans and the Deployment of U.S. Armed Forces by the Staff of the Committee on National Security.

Lloyd Spence, Chairman

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Quotes of the Week:

"They are a permanent threat to the Dayton peace accord."

-- *Ibenel Ramic, a young Muslim man in Sarajevo describing chief war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic who are still free and in power, 5-12-96*

"The Administration's reticence on the arms flow amounted to a conscious policy to deceive Congress."

-- *Rep. Doug Bereuter, (R-NE) 5-11-96*

"I am not going to condemn one side or the other. I condemn the whole organization here who are duty-bound to try and maintain the due care and protection of their people."

-- *Brigadier Andrew Cumming, responding to concerns over recent confrontations between ethnic groups, 4-30-96*

"Unfortunately, I fear we are going to be seeing a lot more of this...the question of returning home will be the biggest problem for the future."

-- *Lt. Col. Inge Palmberg, a Swedish officer in Tuzla commenting on the lack of freedom of movement and attacks on refugees, 5-5-96*

"[T]here has to be an agreement on both sides. Obviously there is huge reluctance by everyone, but especially the Bosnian Serbs, to allow their former enemies into those areas."

-- *Kris Janowski, Spokesman for the UN Refugee Agency commenting on freedom of movement conflicts, 5-2-96*

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

Bosnian Serb leader and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic fires his Prime Minister Rajko Kasagic, sparking concern in Bosnia and the U.S. of a possible coup attempt by Karadzic.

A British soldier is killed by gunfire in the Serb controlled town of Visegrad.

The first Russian soldier is killed when a fellow Russian soldier accidentally fires a burst of three rounds at an equipment and ammo check-out station. An investigation is under way.

A UN police escort is attacked and a photographer is beaten and his equipment destroyed as 30 Muslims and journalists visit a Serb-held village and grave site in northern Bosnia. Officials in Sarajevo say it is too soon for freedom of movement to be fully implemented.

Two U.S. soldiers in Lukavac, near Tuzla, are seriously injured by fire when a gasoline-fueled burner in a kitchen explodes causing other stove burners to ignite and explode. The dining facility is destroyed by the fire.

In Tuzla, a U.S. soldier reportedly

shoots himself in the abdomen. To date, three U.S. soldiers have been shot and two have been killed, one by a mine and the other in a truck accident.

For the first time, the Bosnian government detains two Muslims indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

U.S. efforts to create a \$500 million program to train and equip Bosnia's military are delayed as Pentagon and CIA officials conclude "foreign forces" still remain within Bosnia, in direct violation of the Dayton peace accord. Former Senator George Mitchell is said to be conducting a behind-the-scenes diplomatic offensive in Sarajevo, aimed at salvaging the Dayton peace agreement.

Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs John Kornblum travels to Bosnia to discuss efforts to get the peace plan back on track.

William Steubner, the chief of staff for the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), who is in charge of free elections in September, suddenly resigns. Many speculate the elections will be postponed due to uprisings in Mostar and lack of preparedness.

The U.S. Agency for International Development begins a \$25 million housing repair program. The goal is

to help an estimated 2,500 families return home. The program will create about 2,000 jobs for Bosnians and is part of the \$550 million U.S. relief and recovery efforts.

In Washington:

The Vice President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ejup Ganic, urges peacekeeping troops to arrest accused war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

The Pentagon announces that reporters traveling with military units must request permission from soldiers to use their quotes.

Former Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek meets with senior U.S. officials to discuss a plan for an international military presence in the region after the withdrawal of IFOR troops.

President Clinton says he will sustain full U.S. troop strength in Bosnia until after the September elections and will allow the situation on the ground to determine the exact pace of withdrawal.

Muslim and Croat leaders agree on a joint defense ministry and joint military command. This forces the separate armies to join completely within three years.

Press reports cite Pakistan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Argentina as supplier countries participating in a large and complex covert arms smuggling pipeline to Croatia and Bosnia which began in the fall of 1992.

House lawmakers establish a select committee to investigate illegal Iranian arms shipments to Croatia and Bosnia, after lawmakers argue the administration misled them with a "conscious policy to

deceive the Congress." The select panel includes: Republican Reps. Henry Hyde (IL), Doug Bereuter (NE), Dan Burton (IN), Cass Ballenger (NC), and Sam Brownback (KN), and Democratic Reps. Lee Hamilton (IN), Howard Berman (CA), and Alcee Hastings (FL).

Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman, (R-NY), Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, authorizes subpoenas for the U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith and Ambassador Charles Redman, former Balkans coordinator, to testify about Administration actions regarding the known shipments of Iranian arms to Bosnia.

U.S. Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff says he is disappointed about the progress on the return of refugees. Concerns are expressed over the more than one million displaced refugees in Bosnia who live in makeshift housing and camps.

In The Hague:

Zejnir Delalic, the first Muslim accused of war crimes by the International War Crimes Tribunal, pleads not guilty to murder, rape and torture.

The trial of indicted Bosnian Serb war criminal Dusan Tadic, who is charged with torture and murder of his Muslim and Croat neighbors, begins. This is the first war crimes trial to be held since the end of the Nuremberg trials after World War II. To date, the tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has indicted 43 Bosnian Serbs, 3 Serbians, 8 Bosnian Croats and 3 Bosnian Muslims on war crimes charges. Out of the 57 indicted, only three are in custody.

Compliance Watch:

UN officials estimate that nine out of ten planned visits to villages, homes and grave sites have been blocked. Senior officials from all sides sign a joint statement to promote and assist the refugee visits.

Bosnia Serbs fire at a group of unarmed Muslims in Kapetani in northwestern Bosnia. Two Muslim men are shot at point blank range and one woman loses a leg in a minefield in an effort to escape the Serb attack, which occurs within the 2.5-mile zone of separation in which no weapons are allowed.

U.S. forces in northeast Bosnia, near Zvornik, detain seven Muslims and then release them to Serbian police. Maj. Gen. William Nash, the senior U.S. commander is "infuriated" about the release and requests a return of the seven men for a debrief. The Serbs refuse to comply with Gen. Nash's request unless they receive ministerial authority. The Serbs accuse the seven suspected Muslims of committing murder within Serb-held territory.

Previous issues and additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372), David Trachtenberg (x60532), Will Marsh (x56045) on the staff of the House National Security Committee.